

2



» President Obama. photographed by Scout Tufankiian



To wear

Bachelorettes can celebrate at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at Iululemon (2104 N. Halsted St.) at a party including food, strip cardio class demonstrations and the chance to win a wedding gown from designer Adele Wechsler.

« To meet

Get a personalized copy of photojournalist Scout Tufankjian's "Yes, We Can: Barack Obama's History Making Presidential Campaign" at a signing at noon Thursday at Macy's (111 N. State St.).

To learn

Discover how the Aztecs were perceived in the 19th and 20th Centuries at a lecture with Eduardo Matos Moctezuma, director of the Templo Mayor Project and Museum at 6 p.m. Thursday at The Field Museum (1400 S. Lake Shore Drive): \$5-\$9.

To shop

Get wardrobe advice from personal shoppers, makeup consultations and a chance to grab a gift bag with free iTunes downloads and Benefit cosmetics from 7-9 p.m. Thursday at Banana Republic (744 N. Michigan Ave.). All regularly priced merchandise is 30 percent off all day.



Celebrity twin

Do you look like a celebrity? Show

us! Send your picture along with the

name of the celeb who shares your

com. For Thursday, we have Maria

Solorzano. Think she's a ringer for

You'll get the poll results instantly.

1. Dead on

Khloe Kardashian? Text "khloe" and

the number of your opinion to 47383.

2. Way off

style to dihernandez@tribune.

We'll be back

Friday with a new photo for our write-a-caption contest. Here's the winner from last Friday's paper:

« "Happy, Grumpy & Dopey"

-Candice W.

txtable



Solorzano



Kardashian



Warm, but there's gonna be lots of rain



36 Cloudy,

getting



Sunny,





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rebruary 26, 2009 I redeye newsflash



Nadya Suleman (left), whose interviews with Ann Curry aired earlier this month, originally was the subject of curiosity after giving birth to the longest-surviving set of octuplets. NBC

Octo-outrage

For Suleman, curiosity quickly turned to anger after birth of octuplets

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES It seems so long ago now, but for just a day or two last month Nadya Suleman was known as Miracle Mom, the amazing woman who gave birth to the longest-surviving set of octuplets.

But in short order the public learned that Miracle Mom also was Single Mom, Unemployed Mom and Welfare Mom. And as fast as you could Twitter "I hate Nadya Suleman," scores of Web sites were dedicated to denouncing the so-called Octomom, others to making fun of her, a rap music video lampooned her ("pops 'em out like a toaster/needs a pacifier holster") and angry citizens threatened to kill her publicists.

"In terms of reaction to her, I would say not in my experience have I ever seen anything like it. And I would add that I was involved in public relations for Three Mile Island after the accident," said publicist Mike Furtney, who quit representing Suleman after receiving death threats.

MORE PROBLEMS FOR MOM

Suleman apparently has bigger worries than taking care of her 14 children. Talk show host Dr. Phil McGraw says Suleman told him "unless and until she has a better living arrangement, that [hospital officials] are not likely to release the children to her," McGraw told the L.A. Times.

(Lest anyone forget, the Three Mile Island accident of 1979 involved the partial meltdown of a nuclear reactor that for a time threatened to prompt the evacuation of a wide swath of Pennsylvania.)

Although never venerated as a candidate for mother of the year, Suleman was, for about two days after the Jan. 26 birth of her octuplets, more the subject of curiosity than of ridicule and scorn.

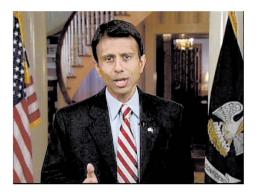
That began to change as it became known she was a single mother with 14 children who was living on a combination of food stamps, student loans and disability claims while her elderly mother, who was caring for Suleman's six older children, couldn't make her mortgage payments.

On the Web, Jodie Rivera, a popular YouTube parody singer known as VenetianPrincess, put up a video of herself looking eerily like Suleman. As she sang, a doctor in scrubs (also Rivera) used a baseball glove to catch flying newborns.

USC sociologist Julie Albright says Suleman was caught in a perfect storm of events.

People might normally overlook her plight as just silly if they weren't already worried about losing their jobs and their homes.

"If someone isn't stressed and something happens like their car breaks down, that's just annoying," Albright said. "But if their parent has just died and they lost their job and their kid's in jail and then their car breaks down, that risks a nervous breakdown. ... That's what's triggering this angry, emotional response in so many people."



The search for Bobby

In all fairness to Bobby Jindal (above), it isn't easy following one of the most gifted public speakers in the world.

And Jindal—the Republican governor of Louisiana—raised valid concerns about America's new course in his rebuttal to President Obama's address Tuesday night.

But we are nothing if not a catty nation, and Jindal on Wednesday found his speaking style compared with children's TV legend Mr. Rogers and Kenneth the Page (Jack McBrayer) of "30 Rock" fame, the Tribune's Swamp blog reported.

The Kenneth comparison came courtesy of a blogger on Huffington Post. Here, RedEye offers definitive proof that Bobby Jindal is not Kenneth the Page. REDEYE

THE BREAKDOWN

JINDAL: The son of Indian immigrants, he grew up in Louisiana and attended Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar.

KENNETH: The son of a pig farmer, he grew up in Georgia and studied television theory at Kentucky Mountain Bible College.

JINDAL: Elected to Congress in 2004 (and reelected in 2006); elected governor of Louisiana in 2007.

KENNETH: Enjoyed a brief stint as the funniest guy in the elevator at NBC's New York headquarters. Threw a well-attended Halloween party once.

JINDAL: Official Web site points to numerous initiatives to spur business growth in Louisiana and reduce taxes for its residents.

KENNETH: On his "30 Rock" video blog, he once asked Bill Gates to give him the money he's owed for passing on a chain letter as requested.

Kenneth

POLL POSITION

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discussion at
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Oscar speech a true inspiration

The Oscar telecast is sometimes jokingly referred to as "The Gay Super Bowl" because it's one of the biggest nights in TV for most of the gay community. Like the Super Bowl, millions gather around their TVs, place their bets and root for their favorites.

There's star power, fashion, drama—what more can a gay TV viewer ask for?

But this year, there was even more in store, thanks to an inspiring and moving speech by Dustin Lance Black.

Black won the Oscar for best original screenplay for "Milk," the story of Harvey Milk, a gay rights activist and the first openly gay

man elected to public office in California. Milk was murdered on Nov. 27, 1978.

We had a few people over to watch the awards, and when Black's name was announced as the winner, everyone in our house loudly rejoiced. But when he spoke, we all got quiet and listened.

What Black said in his acceptance speech really spoke to me as a gay man fighting for equality in our community.

"When I was 13 years old ... I heard the story of Harvey Milk," he said in accepting the award, according to a transcript posted on **glaad.org**. "... It gave me the hope to one



Dustin Lance Black accepts his Oscar on Sunday for best original screenplay. GETTY IMAGES

day live my life openly as who I am ... if Harvey had not been taken from us 30 years ago, I think he'd want me to say to all of the gay and lesbian kids out there tonight who have been told that they are less than by their churches or by the government or by their families that you are beautiful, wonderful creatures of value and that no matter what anyone tells you, God does love you and that very soon, I promise you, you will have equal rights, federally, across this great nation of ours."

That night, Black spoke for all the gays and lesbians out there who are facing civil rights struggles today, from young to old.

I have re-watched Black's speech numerous times since Sunday and it never fails to move me. His words give me hope and encourage me to continue to fight the good fight.

According to Nielsen ratings, Black's speech was seen by 36.3 million people in the U.S. and millions more around the world.

While Harvey Milk inspired a local community to rise up and fight for their rights, Black's words 30 years later have the power to do the same. I still get choked up reading his words now. At this "gay Super Bowl" event on Sunday, Black's speech was indeed, a touchdown. JASON STEELE IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR



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General Manager: Brad Moore Editor: Tran Ha Ad Director: Lisa Schmitz CONTACT US
Letter to the editor: ritaredeye@tribune.com
Newsroom: 312-222-4970 Advertising: 312-222-3886
Classifieds: 312-222-2444 Home Delivery: 1-800-TRIBUNE

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BANANA REPUBLIC

REDEYE | THURSDAY

ENT-O-RAMA

LOOKING FOR AN APARTMENT? YOU'VE GOT PLENTY **TO CHOOSE FROM**

By Alexia Elejalde-Ruiz

How would you like to live in a two-bedroom, two-bathroom condo, complete with gleaming hardwood floors, granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, a Jacuzzi tub anddrumroll, please - an in-unit washer-dryer?

Sound out of your league?

Maybe not, if you're a renter currently in the market for a new apartment. A silver lining of the economic crisis is that there are some great deals on apartments and condo rentals.

For example, the aforementioned condo, located at 2001 W. Jarvis Ave. at the northern edge of the city in Rogers Park, is offered at \$1,100 monthly rent, plus two months free rent on an 18-month lease, and no security deposit.

The gut-rehab was developed as a condo building geared toward first-time home buyers, but all the units were converted to rentals in the fall of 2007, when it started to become difficult for people to get loans, said James Osier, a Realtor with brokerage firm Lohan Realty.

Despite the rent incentives and the condo's bells and whistles, Osier said he's had a hard time finding tenants.

"I've been racking my brain," Osier said, "and the only thing I can think of is that people are staying put."

After several years of being squeezed by rising rents and tough competition for good units, Chicago apartment hunters have reclaimed the upper hand and are seeing the types of concessions that dominated the rental market during the housing boom of the late '90s, when apartment vacancies surged as people left to buy condos.

Apartment ads now offer one, two and even three months of free rent to get tenants in the door.

Some landlords are waiving the security deposit or dropping the credit check requirement. Others are throwing in freebies, like parking spots or flat-screen TVs.

Though winter is always slow for renting, demand for apartments is weaker than usual because fewer people are coming to Chicago



for jobs, and those already here are staying put or saving money by moving in with roommates or their parents, said Maurice Ortiz, marketing director of the Apartment People, a Lakeview apartment search service.

"It's a great time to be renting," Ortiz said.

Dan Cervantes, 25, who is looking to trade his Jefferson Park apartment for a four- or five-bedroom house to share with friends, said he's been pleasantly surprised by the

number of high-quality rentals in his price range. Landlords, he said, are "over-the-top eager" to get them in the door.

"You can pretty much walk in and negotiate," Cervantes said.

At one rent-to-own property in Bucktown, the landlord agreed to slash the monthly rent on a 2,500-square-foot townhouse to \$2,600 from \$2,900, and reduced the security deposit to one month's rent from two, Cervantes said.

Of course, it hurts to be on the receiving end of the rent check.

When Morgan Weaver, 23, got laid off from her advertising job in October, she put her Gold Coast studio up for sublet through an ad on Craigslist—and had to reduce the rent five times before she got someone to sign a sublease.

Weaver, who pays \$1,470 per month for her studio at the luxury Bernardin apartment community, finally agreed two weeks ago to FEBRUARY 26, 2009 I REDEYE

THE VACANT CITY

Forbes this month ranked Chicago the 12th-emptiest American city, based on its housing vacancy rate. Census data for the fourth quarter of 2008 showed the Chicago metro area's rental vacancy rate at 11.8 percent and its home vacancy rate at 3.7 percent. Las Vegas is the emptiest city.



sublet the place for \$1,250. She'll have to swallow the remaining \$220 per month until her lease is up in June.

Property managers have gotten creative to entice renters.

Planned Properties, which manages 26 buildings in Lincoln Park, Lakeview and the Gold Coast, for the first weekend in February threw in a free 32-inch LCD TV, Blu-ray player or Wii system if renters signed a 12-month lease on any one of 10 apartments.

To directly address economic woes, Planned Property recently launched a rental assurance guarantee, which states that any new tenants who lose their jobs while under a lease with Planned Property can break their lease, so long as they show proof they were laid off and filed for unemployment.

"We were sensing a lot of fear out there, a lot of people were shaky about making the commitment because they'd heard rumors of layoffs at their company," said Dan McDonough, advertising and marketing director for Planned Properties.

The dire job outlook isn't the only culprit weakening the rental market. A flood of new apartments and

condo units downtown has tipped supply way over demand.

Last year, 1,974 new apartment units entered the rental market, far more than the average of 750 new units Chicago typically gets per year, said Ron De Vries, vice president and general manager at Appraisal Research Counselors. Another 955 apartment units are expected to be completed this year, he said.

In addition, about 4,546 new construction condo units are slated to be completed in 2009, capping off five years of record condo growth totaling nearly 18,000 new units, according to Appraisal Research. About 25 percent of those condos end up getting rented out, De Vries said.

"Obviously, that puts downward pressure on rents," said Robert Miller, senior vice president of Applied Real Estate Analysis, a Chicago real estate and public policy consulting firm. Miller predicts "serious pressure" on rents will continue for at least another 18 months.

High-end downtown buildings may be feeling the most pressure, as people are scaling back on luxury. Rents for "Class A" properties (the newest highrises) were down 6 percent in the fourth quarter of 2008 compared with the same period the year before, according to Appraisal Research Counselors. Rents at "Class B" properties—the older downtown high-rises—were down 4 percent. The number of condos available for rent, meanwhile, rose 47 percent.

Properties outside of downtown also are feeling pinched.

Atukwe Newell, managing partner at UAS Properties, a South Side property manager and tenant placement service, said he hasn't seen reduced rents, but he has seen landlords loosening their credit standards because the tenant pool has shifted to include many renters with a history of foreclosures, layoffs and collection accounts.

In addition, Section 8 vouchers have become "the hot commodity," he said, because guaranteed rent from the government is preferable to uncertain rent if a tenant loses his or her job, Newell said.

Renters whose poor credit or Section 8 status previously made it difficult for them to rent are now finding themselves accepted more readily in Bronzeville, Washington Park, Woodlawn, and some parts of the West Loop, Newell said.

Landlords are eager to see if the busy spring moving season swings the market back in their favor—but they're not betting on it.

"This is uncharted territory now," said Rick Mroczkowski, leasing manager for Prospect Equities, a real estate brokerage in Lincoln Park. "I have no idea what's going to happen."

AELEJALDERUIZ@TRIBUNE.COM

RENTER BEWARE

Just because it's a renter's market, doesn't mean all the apartments out there are gems. Be wary of these enticing descriptions when perusing Craigslist.

"COZY"	You can reach your TV, closet and refrigerator without leaving your bed.
"VINTAGE"	Hope you don't expect all the faucets or doorknobs to work.
"UNIQUE LAYOUT"	Good luck arranging furniture.
"ON-SITE LAUNDRY"	Does this entail walking outside in the cold to access a creepy basement?
"FREE WATER & GARBAGE"	You pay gas, heat and electric.

WHAT TO KNOW WHEN RENTING

Shouldn't the rental market be booming now that the housing crash has forced some buyers back to renting?

Theoretically, yes, but the combination of a bad job market and a glut of new apartment and condo developments has softened the market.

The job market is the main driver of the rental market, and it's not looking good. Job growth in Chicago was down 0.11 percent last year, and it's projected to fall another 2.45 percent in 2009, according to Moody's **economy.com**.

Will landlords still raise rent at lease renewal?

Probably, though landlords eager to retain existing tenants may propose smaller increases than usual. Diana Pittro, executive vice president of RMK Management, which owns 20 properties in the Chicago area including the luxury McClurg Court Center downtown, said last year the company raised rents 6 percent or 7 percent at lease renewal time. This year it'll be about half that.

Are low-income tenants benefiting from the soft rental market?

Not necessarily. Foreclosures have displaced many low-income renters and reduced the affordable housing stock.

"For every tenant that gets evicted, that unit is offline as affordable housing," said Kathleen Clark, executive director of Lawyers Committee for Better Housing, a Chicago advocacy group. Also, many tenants in foreclosed properties are losing their security deposits.

Should people be wary of condo rentals?

Judy Roettig, executive director of the Chicagoland Apartment Association, said apartment hunters should check to make sure a condo isn't in default or foreclosure before agreeing to rent it. Condos now make up about 19 percent of foreclosures in the city, according to the Woodstock Institute.

How do you find out if a property is in foreclosure?

It's a complicated process, but not impossible. Find the steps at **redeyechicago.com/renting.** You also can call the Clerk of Circuit Court of Cook County, at 312-603-5133, if you have the property owner's name.

What rights do renters have if they're living in a foreclosed property?

Landlords and property owners are required to notify tenants of foreclosure action within seven days of a foreclosure filing, according to city law. They also must notify new tenants of foreclosure action before they sign a lease. If violated, the tenant can terminate the lease.

In addition, renters living in a foreclosed property must get 90 days' notice before an eviction action is filed against them, as long as the tenant is current on rent, according to state law. Chicago, meanwhile, will provide emergency relocation rental assistance for incomeeligible households to support up to three months of rent and moving expenses.

Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are offering renters in their foreclosed properties the option to stay if they sign new month-to-month leases at market-rate rents.

ALEXIA ELEJALDE-RUIZ

chicago

But wait, there's help

Signs of a bedbug infestation:

- » Bites on arms, legs, back
- » Red stains or smears
- on sheets
 » Live or dead bugs
- near your bed

What to if you have an infestation:

- Call your landlordCall 311 and make sure
- you get a "reference number" so you can
- track the disposition

 » Call your alderman's
- » Talk to your neighbors
- » Hire a qualified

exterminator

Before an exterminator arrives:

- » Launder all linens and clothing, dry on high heat, store clean clothing in sealed plastic bags
- » Steam clean and vacuum sofas,
- baseboards and carpeting
- » Reduce clutter
- » Seal/caulk cracks and crevices
- » Proper extermination will require multiple visits
- » Treatments such as "fogging" are ineffective; beware of companies that "pray-and-spray"

Additional resources:

» Safer Pest Control Project, a non-profit resource center

spcpweb.org,

- 773-878-7378

 » Chicago vs. Bed

 Bugs, a community
- organizing group: chicagovsbedbugs.org
- » Metropolitan Tenants Organization, a tenantsrights group: 773-292-
- SOURCE: SAFER PEST CONTROL PROJECT

Cimex lectularius:

The common bedbug is a brownish, flattened insect that typically feeds on humans, and it's in Chicago!

Don't let the bed bugs bite

Nocturnal bloodsuckers, nearly eradicated in 1950s, are back

Chicago Tribune

When Lisa Tousant woke up one morning in August with itchy, red splotches on her elbow, she thought she had been bitten by a mosquito. A few days later, she found more strange, swollen spots up and down her arms and legs.

"You get to scratching and scratching. I almost dug a hole in my arm, that's how bad they were," said Tousant, a 41-year-old city worker who lives in Rogers Park. After scouring her tidy one-bedroom apartment with ammonia in an attempt to wipe out the mysterious scourge, she inspected her mattress. "I pulled the sheets back and turned on the light and there's the bugs."

Bedbugs, those nocturnal bloodsuckers, are on the march in Chicago. After being nearly eradicated in the U.S. by DDT in the 1950s, the creatures have launched a comeback. Reports of the bugs spiked locally this summer and have been rising ever since. Prompted by an outcry from angry, itchy citizens, city officials will next month train 45 building inspectors to spot the critters. A coalition that includes the Metropolitan Tenants Organization, the Safer Pest Control Project and Ald. Joe Moore's (49th) office is lobbying for a coordinated response that would educate school nurses, establish citywide tracking and launch an aggressive public-awareness campaign.

"It's not at epidemic proportions, but it could be. ... That's why the city has to move proactively," said Moore, whose ward has been called a hotbed for the infestation.

Orkin Pest Control's Chicago office reports that bedbug complaints doubled from 2007 to 2008. Likewise, Smithereen Pest Management officials said they made 1,650 bedbug calls in Chicago in 2008, up from 900 in 2007. The Metropolitan Tenants Organization, a non-profit renters rights group, is receiving almost a half-dozen calls a day.

The common bedbug, Cimex lectularius, is a brownish, flattened insect that typically feeds on humans. Hardy survivors, they can live for more than a year without a meal and



Trenton Allen goes through the nightly ritual of checking his daughter's blanket for bedbugs Tuesday in his South Austin apartment. E. JASON WAMBSGANS/TRIBUNE

thrive anywhere they can find a warm-blooded host. "The bedbugs, all they need is you. You're the food," said Rachel Rosenberg, director of the Safer Pest Control Project, a group that works to reduce pesticide use.

Those who have experienced an infestation describe it as traumatizing.

"In June, we started noticing little bumps on us. We couldn't figure out why we were scratching," said Tonya Moore, 35, of Rogers Park. Two of her children scratched so persistently they ended up in the emergency room with secondary infections. Other apartments in their 77-unit building became infested too. "A lot of people lost everything. They're too embarrassed to have people over because they have no furniture. They had to throw it all away."

Said Trenton Allen, 32, of South Austin: "You wake up in the morning and they're in your face. They're in the sleeves of your coat. It's embarrassing because you never know when you're going to take them with you."

Widow sues over crash

The truck driver who plowed into a Red Line station in Chinatown in April, killing two people and injuring 21 others, suffered a "medical condition" just before the crash, a federal lawsuit filed by the truck driver's family alleged. The lawsuit filed by Donald Wells' wife, Ann Darlene Wells, alleges that Chicago Police ignored pleas by family members for medical treatment for Wells, 64. He died in June.

Card theft alert issued

Attention men: If women approach you in a bar and offer you a good time, it may not be because they think you're hot. A community alert issued by Chicago Police Wednesday said there have been cases of women leaving a bar with men, convincing them to withdraw cash from ATMs and stealing their credit or debit cards. Police said the suspects may be prostitutes taking advantage of men who were drunk.

5 blamed in teen cop impersonator case

At least five Chicago Police employees violated rules and regulations when a 14-year-old police impersonator went on patrol in January on the South Side, officials said Wednesday. No recommendations for discipline have been sent up the chain of command yet, said Tina Skahill, chief of the Internal Affairs Division.

Robber cites 'hard times'

Chicago Police chased down a bank robbery suspect Tuesday after a holdup in North Center. Police say the suspect, Melvin Reese, 46, of Gary, Ind., walked into the Lincoln Park Savings Bank, 1946 W. Irving Park Rd., and handed a teller a note demanding money.

DIGIT

3.6%

Northwestern University announced Wednesday that undergraduate tuition, room and board for the 2009-10 school year will grow 3.6 percent to \$49,791, but it will be the smallest percentage increase in more than 40 years.

ULTRA SMART CHOICE

95 12.6g
CARBOHYDRATES

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nation/world from news services REDEYE | THURSDAY

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1 It's a Locke for Obama

President Obama introduced former Washington Gov. Gary Locke as his nominee for commerce secretary Wednesday, trying a third time to fill a key Cabinet post for a country in recession.

Battlefield 2.0

For the first time since the end of the Cold War, the Army is updating its manual for the electronic battlefield—a move aimed at protecting soldiers against roadside bombs and other nontraditional warfare used by increasingly sophisticated insurgents.

What was that?

Police say an unidentified falling object dropped out of the sky with enough velocity to tear a hole through the roof and the second floor of a Dallas home. The six-pound piece of metal fell on Tuesday evening, No one was hurt.

3 4 dead in Florida

A 53-year-old music teacher fatally shot his wife and two daughters Wednesday before killing himself, while his 16-year-old son who survived the attack managed to call 911 as he escaped uninjured from the Miami home, authorities said.

Mumbai gunman charged

India charged the lone surviving gunman from the deadly Mumbai attacks on Wednesday in a 11,000-page document marking the beginning of a legal process that could lead to his execution—and raise tensions with Pakistan.

5 Polio case reported

Kenya announced its first polio infection in 20 years Wednesday, after a 4-year-old girl was diagnosed with the disease.

Glaciers melting

Antarctic glaciers are melting faster across a much wider area than previously thought, scientists said Wednesday—a development that could lead to an unprecedented rise in sea levels.

Michelle Obama: First dog arriving in April

WASHINGTON This isn't just another wag-the-tail story: The Obamas are getting a dog in April and are looking for a rescue Portuguese water dog.

First Lady Michelle Obama tells People magazine that the target date for the arrival of the family pet is after her daughters' spring break trip in April, though Sasha is convinced the dog is coming April 1.

"So Sasha says 'April 1st.' I said, 'April.' She says, 'April 1st.' It's like, April!" said Obama.

The Obama girls—Sasha, 7, and Malia, 10—attend the private Sidwell Friends

school, which has spring break March 20-29 and a day off for students on April 13.

The family wants a rescue Portuguese water dog who is the appropriate age and match

"Temperamentally they're supposed to be pretty good," Obama said. "From the size perspective, they're sort of middle of the road—it's not small, but it's not a huge dog. And the folks that we know who own them have raved about them. So that's where we're leaning."

President Obama and his wife had promised their daughters that they would

get a dog after the election, and the selection of the first pet has been eagerly awaited not only by the children but by the nation's dog lovers.

But the decision apparently isn't as set in stone as People reported.

The first lady's press secretary, Katie Lelyveld, threw cold water on the report Wednesday, suggesting that a decision actually has not been made.

"They have not selected a breed," Lelyveld said. "Mrs. Obama likes the Portuguese water dog, but she is only one of four votes."



126 people survive plane crash

AMSTERDAM A Turkish Airlines jetliner plummeted out of cloudy skies and plowed into a muddy field on approach to Amsterdam on Wednesday, but remarkably some 126 people—the vast majority of those aboard—survived. The nine dead included both pilots. APPHOTO

What size cup would you like?

VASSALBORO, Maine Cup size has more than one meaning at a new central Maine coffeehouse.

Servers are topless at the Grand View Topless Coffee Shop, which opened its doors Monday on a busy road in Vassalboro. A sign outside says, "Over 18 only." Another says, "No cameras, no touching, cash only."

On Tuesday, two men sipped coffee at a booth while three topless waitresses and a bare-chested waiter stood nearby. Topless waitress Susie Wiley said men, women and couples have stopped by.

The coffee shop raised the ire of dozens of residents when it went before the town planning board last month. Town officials said the coffee shop met the letter of the law.

FEBRUARY 26, 2009 ▮ REDEYE

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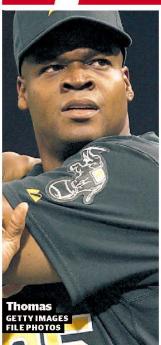
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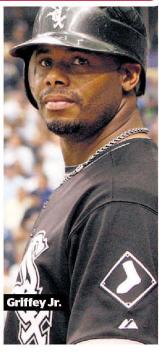
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12 REDEYE I THURSDAY

sports













Poll: Fans fed up

Sixty percent of baseball fans are bothered by players' steroid use, and 44 percent say Yankees third baseman Alex Rodriguez should not be allowed in the Hall of Fame, according to a New York Times/CBS News poll. The 60 percent of fans who said the use of performanceenhancing drugs mattered a lot to them was up from 53 percent last year. NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

NATURAL TALENTS

RedEye tries to find the real pure baseball star of the steroids era

It seems a cloud of suspicion hangs over just about every accomplished baseball player in the steroids era. But, as results in 2003 indicated, only 104 players tested positive for performance-enhancing drugs. So, who should we label the best "clean" player of the steroids era? That's what we asked RedEye's panel of sports wonks, and here's what they think. REDEYE



Bag Boy redeyesports@tribune.com

redeyesports@tribune.com

The best player was Frank Thomas an awesome combination of power,

consistency and patience at the plate. He stayed consistent, his on-base percentage was regularly among the highest in the league. Another could be Derek Jeter for the way he represented the game and for his consistency.



Jimmy Greenfield

jgreenfield@tribune.com

Greg Maddux, of course. He was as dominant as any pitcher of the

last 50 years during the early '90s, won at least 13 games for 20 straight seasons, was humble to a fault, and with his tiny, doughy frame you absolutely know he never used performance-enhancing drugs.



Jen Patterson

CSN's "Monsters in the Morning"

Derek Jeter is the real star of the steroid era. He is the golden child

of baseball. He is a nine-time All-Star and captain of the New York Yankees. If Jeter's name was on the list of 104 names, then I think all baseball fans would feel let down.



Dr. Fantasy

redeyesports@tribune.com

He may be a hobbled, creaky and sometimes cranky 39-year old, but

Ken Griffey Jr.'s swing is still sweeter than sugar. Mark McGuire and Barry Bonds' power swings seemed all raw anger (or 'roid rage perhaps), but with Griffey Jr. it's like he's making sweet love to a thigh-high fastball.



Elliott Serrano

redeyechicago.com/geektome

Forget the players, the true stars of the steroid era are Commissioner

Bud Selig and players union chief Donald Fehr. They got embroiled in a conspiracy and cover-up that will provide fodder for sports historians in the decades to come. Stand up and take a bow, fellas!



Marc Silverman

ESPN's "Waddle & Silvy"

"One bad apple ruins it for the bunch"? Then what happens when

there are 104 bad apples? The orchard is ruined. Nobody is declared a winner. Everyone emerges as a loser. Sorry Frank and Grif Jr. I'd like to say you two are clean, but just can't for sure.



Soxman

redeyesports@tribune.com

Is it not sad the greatest player of the steroid era is one that represents

everything wrong with baseball? Yet a career .314 batting average, 527 homers and a 1.004 on base percentage plus slugging percentage since 1993 and no dirt (of the anabolic variety) crowns Manny Ramirez the best. It soils my socks to admit it.



Sarah Spain

mouthpiecesports.com

Too many people use superstars as scapegoats. I think nearly everyone

was using—from MVPs to utility players. Steroids don't give you talent, they allow you to train harder and recover faster. At this point, the only answer is to move forward. Why trust anyone's word when so many have stated their innocence only to be revealed as liars?



Tracy Swartz

tswartz@tribune.com

David Ortiz, who achieved success the Babe Ruth way:

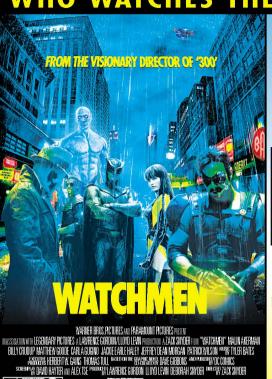
Beer and hot dogs.

txtable

CANINE HOTLINE

What do you think. baseball fans. Who will we look back on as the best player not using performanceenhancing drugs during the steroids era? Send Whizzer your thoughts via e-mail to redeyesports@ tribune.com or just text "whiz" and your comment followed by your name, age and neighborhood to 47383.

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600 N. MICHIGAN (AMC)

600 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago (312) 255-9340

AMC Select - The best specialty films

■ International (R) 2:00,4:50,7:50,10:40 ■ Friday the 13th (R) 2:15,5:00,7:40,10:10

■ Pink Panther 2 (PG) 1:30 P.M. ■ The Uninvited (PG–13) 1:40,6:45

2828 North Clark St., Chicago (773) 509-4949 ■ Tehran (NR) 6:15,8:00,9:45 ■ Terrari (NN) 0:15,8:00,9:45 ■ Slumdog Mill (R) 1:45,4:40,7:40,10:30 ■ Doubt (PG-13) 1:55,4:45,7:35,10:10

■ The Class (PG-13) 3:10,6:30,9:45 ■ The Reader (R) 3:15,6:45,10:00

■ Revo Road (R) 2:00,4:50,7:45,10:30

CITY NORTH 14 (KERASOTES)

■ Push (PG-13) 1:40,4:50,7:30,10:30 ■ Coraline 3D (PG) 12:50,3:45,6:50,9:40

■ Coraine 3D (**G) 12:30,3-43,0:30,3-40

■ Taken (PG-13) 12:30,3:00,5:30,8:15,10:45

■ Hotel for Dogs (PG) 1:10,3:50

■ Blart: Mall Cop (PG) 1:50,4:40,7:15,9:45

■ Gran Torino (R) 6:30,9:20

■ Madea Goes (PG-13) ★ 12:20,1:30,3:10,4:20,6:10,7:20,9:10,10:00

■ Fired Up (PG-13) ★ 2:30,5:20,7:50,10:20 ■ Friday the 13th (R) ★ 1:00,2:20,3:30,5:10,6:20,7:40,9:00,10:15

International (R) ★ 2:00,5:00,8:00,10:40 **Confess-Shop**(PG) ★ (Closed caption) 1:20,4:05,7:00,10:10 **He's Just Not** (PG-13) 12:40,3:40,6:40,9:50 **Pink Panther 2** (PG) 2:10,4:30,7:10,9:30

■ Che: Part One (NR) 2:05

Milk (R) 1:30.4:30.7:30.10:20

2600 N. Western Ave (800) 326-3264 #1642

■ Confess-Shop (PG) 1:50,4:40,7:20,10:00 ■ He's Just Not (PG–13) 1:00,4:00,7:10,10:20

■ AMC Select Slumdog Mill (R) 1:10,4:30,7:30,10:30 ■ Blart: Mall Cop (PG) 3:00,5:45,8:15,10:35 ■ AMC Select Gran Torino (R) 3:45,9:15

LANDMARK CENTURY CENTRE CINEMA (LANDMARK)

Madea Goes (PG-13) 2:30,4:15,5:15,7:00,8:00,9:45,10:45

Show times change daily &

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DAVIS THEATRE (VALUE)

4614 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago (773) 784-0893 (312) 642-7500

■ International (R) ★ 4:50,7:20,9:50 ■ He's Just Not (PG-13) 4:50,7:40,10:10 ■ Slumdog Mill (R) 5:10,7:30,10:00 ■ Doubt (PG-13) 5:00,7:15,9:30

FORD CITY 14 (AMC) S. Cicero at 76th, Chicago

(773) 582-1839 Show times change daily

AMC Select - The best specialty films

AMC Select - The best specialty films
■ Fired Up (PG-13) 3:00,5:10,7:15,9:45
■ Madea Goes (PG-13) 1:30,2:10,2:50,3:30,4:10,4:50,5:30,6:10,6:50,7:30,8:15,8:50,9:30,10:00
■ International (R) 1:30,4:15,7:00,9:45
■ Friday the 13th (R) 2:30,3:4,5:50,6:30,7:10,8:30,9:00,9:45
■ Friday The 13th (R) 2:30,3:4,5:50,6:30,7:10,8:30,9:00,9:45
■ Pink Panther 2 (PG) 2:00,4:15
■ Push (PG-13) 7:10,9:40
■ Coralline (PG) 1:50,4:20,6:50,9:10
■ Taken (PG-13) 3:30,5:20,7:40,10:00
■ The Uninvited (PG-13) 1:40,6:15
■ Hotel for Dogs (PG) 2:20,4:45
■ Blart: Mall Cop (PG) 1:45,4:00,6:20,8:45

GENE SISKEL FILM CENTER 164 State Street

312-846-2800

■ Harvard Beats (NR) 6:00,8:00 ■ DDR/DDR (NR) 6:00 ■ Everything-Sale (NR) 8:45

LOGAN THEATRE

2646 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago (773) 252-0628

■ Frost/Nixon (F) 2:00,4:15,6:25,8:40 ■ The Uninvited (PG-13) 2:00,3:35,5:15,6:50,8:30 ■ Hotel for Dogs (PG) 2:00,4:05,6:15,8:20 ■ Benjamin Button (PG-13) 2:05,5:05,8:05

MUSIC BOX

3733 N. Southport, Chicago (773) 871-6604

■ Just Another (NR) 5:20,7:40,9:50 ■ The Wrestler (R) 5:15,7:30,9:45

PIPERS ALLEY (AMC)

Show times change daily

AMC Select - The best specialty films

■ Delhi 6 (NR) 3:30,6:30 ■ AMC Select The Wrestler (R) 2:30,5:00,7:30

AMC Select Waltz-Bashir (B) 3:45 5:55 8:15

■ AMC Select Rachel Getting (R) 2:45,5:15,7:45

RIVER EAST 21 (AMC)

322 E. Illinois Street 847-765-7262 Show times change daily

Show times change daily
■ Fired Up (PG-13) 1:10,3:25,6:05,8:45
■ Madea Goes (PG-13) 1:50,2:50,4:45,5:45,7:40,8:40,10:30
■ International (R) 2:00,5:15,8:30
■ Friday the 13th (R) 1:40,3:30,4:30,7:15,9:55,10:55
■ Confess-Shop (PG) 1:30,2:30,4:20,5:20,7:20,8:20,10:15
■ Coraline 3D (PG) ● 1:15,4:05,6:45,9:30
■ He's Just Not (PG-13) 1:05,3:15,4:15,6:30,7:30,10:40
■ Pink Panther 2 (PG) 1:00,3:20,6:00,8:25,10:45
■ Push (PG-13) 1:36,4:35,7:35,10:35
■ Taken (PG-13) 1:36,4:35,7:35,10:35
■ Taken (PG-13) 2:50,5:20,8:00,10:40
■ AMC Select Milk (R) 2:15,5:10,8:10
■ AMC Select FrostVilxon (R) 4:10,10:45
■ AMC Select Slumdog Mill (R) 1:00,4:00,7:00,10:15,10:50
■ Underworld (R) 9:30 P.M.
■ AMC Select The Wrestler (R) 1:50,4:50,7:50,10:35
■ AMC Select The Wrestler (R) 1:50,4:50,7:50,10:35

■ AMC Select **Deflance** (R) 2:20 P.M. ■ AMC Select **The Reader** (R) 2:05,5:05,8:00,10:50 ■ **Benjamin Button** (PG-4) 3:40,7:15 ■ AMC Select **Doubt** (PG-13) 1:40 P.M.

CROWN VILLAGE 18 (KERASOTES)

7000 Carperter Rd., Skokie (800) 326-3264 #2309

■ Madea Goes (PG-13) ★ 1:00,4:20,7:20,10:00

■ Fired Up (PG-13) ★ 1:40,4:30,7:10,9:30

■ Friday the 13th (R) ★ 1:200,1:30,2:30,4:00,5:10,6:30,7:50,9:10,10:10

■ International (R) ★ 1:2:20,3:30,7:15,10:05

■ Confess-Shop (PG) ★ 1:210,1:20,2:40,4:10,5:20,6:50,7:45,9:20,10:25

■ He's Just Not (PG-13) 1:40,3:40,6:40,7:40,9:40,10:30

■ Pink Panther 2 (PG) 1:10,3:50,6:20,8:50

G - General audience PG - Parental guidence suggested
PG-13 - Parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13
R - Restricted, under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian
NC-17 - No one 17 and under admitted

CROWN VILLAGE 18 (KERAS Coraline 3D (PG) 11:40,2:10,4:50,7:30,9:55

■ Coraline 3D (PG) 11:40,2:10,4:50,7:30,9:55
■ The Univited (PG-13) 2:00,4:40
■ Taken (PG-13) 11:45,2:50,5:30,8:00,10:20
■ Hotel for Dogs (PG) 11:50,2:20,5:00
■ Blart: Mall Cop (PG) 11:30,1:50,4:15,6:45,9:00
■ Benjamin Button (PG-13) 12:50,4:45,8:20
■ The Wrestler (R) 12:45,3:45,7:09,4:45
■ Slumdog Mill (R) 12:30,3:20,6:10,9:15

WEBSTER PLACE (KERASOTES) 1471 W. Webster Ave., Chicago

(800) 326-3264 #1641 ■ International (R) ★ 1:10,4:10,7:10,10:10

Confess-Shop (PG) ★ 1:00,2:00,3:45,4:50,6:40,7:40,9:20,10:20 ■ He's Just Not(PG-13) 12:30,1:20,2:15,3:30,4:20,5:15,6:30,7:20,8:15,9:30,10:15 ■ Pink Panther 2 (PG) 1:50.4:30.6:50

■ PInk Pantner 2 (PG) 1:50,4:30,6:50
■ Taken (PG-13) 1:30,4:00,7:00,10:00
■ Underworld (R) 9:15 P.M.
■ Benjamin Button (PG-13) 2:40,6:10,9:45
■ Gran Torino (R) 2:20,5:00,7:50,10:40
■ Frost/Nixon (R) 1:40,4:40,7:30,10:30

SHOWPLACE 14 - GALEWOOD CROSSINGS (KERASOTES E. Side of Central Ave., just S. of Grand Ave.

(800) 326-3264 #1646 Madea Goes (PG-13) 1:00,2:00,3:40,4:40,6:10,7:10,7:50,9:15,9:50,10:2

CICERO SHOWPLACE 14 (KERASOTES) (continued)

■ International (R) * 12:50,3:50,6:49,9:45
■ Confess-Shop (PG) * 1:20,4:15,7:00,9:20
■ Pink Panther 2 (PG) 2:45,5:20
■ Push (PG-13) 1:40,4:30,7:15,10:15
■ Coralline 30 (PG) 1:10,4:10,6:45,9:40
■ The Uninvited (PG-13) 2:20,4:50,7:20,10:10

■ Taken (PG-13) 12:40,3:30,6:20,9:00 ■ Underworld (R) 7:45,10:30 ■ Blart: Mall Cop (PG) 2:15,5:15,7:40,10:05

OAK PARK LAKE CINEMAS (CLASSIC)

1022 Lake Street 630-444-FILM #560

Confess-Shop (PG) 12:10,2:30,4:50,7:10,9:30
 International (R) 1:00,4:00,6:45,9:20
 Coraline 3D (PG) 12:15,2:30,4:45,7:00,9:15

■ Pink Panther 2 (PG) 12:19,2:30,4:49,7:700,9:13 ■ Pink Panther 2 (PG) 12:200,2:10,4:20,6:30,8:40 ■ He's Just Not (PG–13) 1:30,4:15,7:05,9:50 ■ Taken (PG–13) 1:05,3:15,5:25,7:35,9:45 ■ Slumdog Mill (R) 2:00,4:40,7:20,10:00

EVANSTON CENTURY 12/CINEARTS 6 (CENTURY)

1715 MAPLE AVE. (847)492-0123 &

■ Madea Goes (PG-13) 1:00,200,3:40,4:40,6:10,7:10,7:50,9:15,9:50,10:20
■ Fired Up (PG-13) 1:50,4:20,6:50,9:30
■ Fired Up (PG-13) 1:50,4:20,6:50,9:30
■ Fired Up (PG-13) 1:50,4:20,6:50,9:30
■ Fired Up (PG-13) 1:20,4:30,0:5:20,7:40,9:55
■ Jonas Brothers (G) ★ 12:01
■ The Reader (R) ★ 1:00,4:00,7:45
■ Madea Goes (PG-13) ± 1:20,4:20,7:20,10:10
■ Taken (PG-13) 1:20,4:30,7:15,10:15
■ The Uninvited (PG-13) 4:50,7:20,10:10
■ Taken (PG-13) 1:20,3:30,6:20,9:00
■ Hotel for Dogs (PG) 2:30,5:10
■ Blart: Mall Cop (PG) 2:15,5:15,7:40,10:05
■ Blart: Mall Cop (PG) 2:15,5:15,7:40,10:05
■ Fired Up (PG-13) ★ 1:00,2:00,2:30,3:40,4:40,5:10,6:10,7:10,7:50,9:15,9:50,10:20
■ Fired Up (PG-13) ★ 1:00,2:00,2:30,3:40,4:40,5:10,6:10,7:10,7:50,9:15,9:50,10:20
■ Fired Up (PG-13) ★ 1:00,2:00,6:30,7:30,9:10,10:00 (pointwised)
■ Friday the 13th (R) ★ 1:30,2:10,4:00,5:00,6:30,7:30,9:10,10:00 (pointwised)
■ Friday the 13th (R) ★ 1:30,2:10,4:00,5:00,6:30,7:30,9:10,10:00 (pointwised)
■ Fired Up (PG-13) ★ 1:20,4:20,6:50,9:30 (pointwised)
■ Fired Up (PG-13) ★ 1:20,4:20,6:50,9:30 (pointwised)
■ Fired Up (PG-13) ★ 1:20,4:20,0:50,9:20 (pointwised)
■ Fired Up (PG-13) ★ 1:20,4:20,0:50,9:30,9:10,10:00 (pointwised)
■ Fired Up (PG-13) ★ 1:20,4:20,0:50,9:30 (pointwised)
■ Fired Up (PG-13) ★ 1:20,4:20,0:7:40,9:55 (pointwised)
■ Fired Up (PG-13) ★ 1:20,4:20,0:7:40,9:7:20,9:00 (pointwised)
■ Fired Up (PG

What to Watch

Where to go for entertainment? Start here.

Sox talk

have started?

The arrival of Spring Training games means one thing: Soxman has come out of hibernation.



TRACY SWARTZ tswartz@tribune.com

Jimmy keeps showing us his

LEO EBERSOLE ebersole@tribune.com

Carlos Quentin already has I've been taking more imploded three times.

afternoon naps.

ADAM CALDARELLI

"Wait Until Next Year" T-shirt sales are skyrocketing on the North Side.

redeyesports@tribune.com

Imagine how Soxman celebrated the Sox's first game of the exhibition season.

How can you tell that

Spring Training games

With an angry e-mail to the Trib accusing them of biased coverage.

I hit my refresh button 247

times today.

With unbridled excitement and disposable Sox.

By jumping off a building in Hong Kong to nab a crime boss. Wait, wrong movie.

Do I have to?

Heat stroke. My costume badly needs desert modifications.

How should baseball deal with the records set by players during the steroids era?

Add them to the records set during the spitball era.

Forget asterisks. Put asteroid next to them and watch that record combust.

Honor them. Unless Selig wants to travel back in time, make rules and enforce them. Erase them.

All the records can kiss my asterisk.*

What's Manny Ramirez gonna do?

Sign with the Dodgers and immediately start sulking.

No, you locks it up.

Goodbye, L.A. Dodgers. Hello, L.A. film scene. Hello, new screen name: Man-Ram.

Something very odd, followed by something odder, followed by collecting a large paycheck. Apply for welfare. At \$25 million per year, how can the man live?

Who is on your Mt. Rushmore of sports?

Steve Stone, Cliff Floyd, Harlon Hill and Kenesaw Mountain Landis.

Rex Grossman. Is there a bigger bust?

Darrell Green, Don Mattingly, Gilbert Arenas and Willie the Wildcat. Go Cats!

Rusty LaRue, Bobby Hansen, Jud Buechler and Cliff Levingston.

McGwire, Clemens, Bonds, A-Rod. You did say Mt. Roidmore, right?

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15



GETTYIMAGES

Tiger's day

Eight months later, Tiger Woods looked as though he had never been away. Woods made a triumphant return to golf Wednesday in the Accenture Match Play Championship, with two eagles helping him overcome three bogeys en route to winning his match over Brendan Jones. It ended with Woods hitting a 3-foot par on the 16th for a 3-and-2 victory.



Here now, my TV picks.

COLLEGE **BASKETBALL ILLINOIS VS. MINNESOTA**

6 p.m. Big Ten Network The fate of ... uhhh, what, my latest bet? ... hangs in the balance.

ACCENTURE MATCH PLAY CHAMPIONSHIP

1 p.m. Golf Channel Day 2 of the Tiger Woods comeback.

NBA PHOENIX AT L.A.

9:30 p.m. TNT Eventually, Kobe will figure out how to take all of the Lakers' shots.



» Michael Phelps has been dropped as the keynote speaker at two events in Canada next week, with the promoter citing the Olympic champion swimmer's "widely publicized alleged use of marijuana." » Alex Rodriguez (left) was booed Wednesday, then homered in his first game since admitting he used a banned substance. » NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell is taking a pay cut and the league staff has been trimmed by 15 percent because of the reeling economy, the NFL confirmed



HOMETOWN HITS



CUBS 5, **DODGERS 3** Micah Hoffpauir hit a grand slam

for the Cubs on Wednesday in a 5-3 win over the L.A. Dodgers in the exhibition opener.



Wednesday.

L.A. ANGELS 12, WHITE SOX 3

Mike Napoli's

two-run double highlighted a three-run third inning and helped the L.A. Angels beat the White Sox 12-3 in the exhibition opener for both teams Wednesday.

Wednesday's results

- » Northwestern 75, Indiana 53
- » New Jersey 111, Bulls 99
- » Villanova 74. DePaul 72
- » N. Illinois 78, W. Michigan 63
- » Evansville 56, Bradley 49 » S. Illinois 56. Drake 55

The Snuggie sports bar invasion

fame

game

SHANNON J. OWENS

redeyesports @tribune.com

Next month, there will be thousands of blue blankets swarming bars in Chicago and 15 cities in America.

No, it won't be Cubs fans in mourning. It will be the first annual Snuggie Pub Crawl featuring people drinking while dressed as 15th Century monks.

You know the infomercials right?

The Chicago Tribune reported Wednesday that Snuggie CEO Scott Boilen has sold 4 million blankets with sleeves.

With the economy in the stinker and TV ad sales in decline, infomercials are taking a swing at daytime TV and somehow scoring with viewers while pushing ridiculous products.

Rewind for a second. There were 4 million blankets with sleeves sold to the general public and now this mass monk movement will descend upon bars.

So naturally, this month kicks off the "save a bar" campaign. And yes, it starts with the power of one—me.

I understand the good-natured humor of the Snuggie and can appreciate its unique ability to keep one warm.

But in the name of Mickey Mantle, let's keep bars for boozers and sports fans. Not Snuggies.

Speaking of fans, too bad widow Betty Garrett wasn't a fan of Indiana University wanting to put her deceased husband's name, Bill Garrett, on a campus gym.

Granted I can understand why she was upset. His name would have been hyphenated with known segregationist Ora L. Wildermuth.

Garrett was the first African-American to play for the university's men's basketball team in 1948. Wildermuth opposed integrating the school in the 1940s.

But wouldn't it be sweet justice on some level to have Garrett's name up there and know old surly Ora would be turning in his grave?

Just my opinion—which, these days, is worth the price of a Snuggie.

SHANNON J. OWENS IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.



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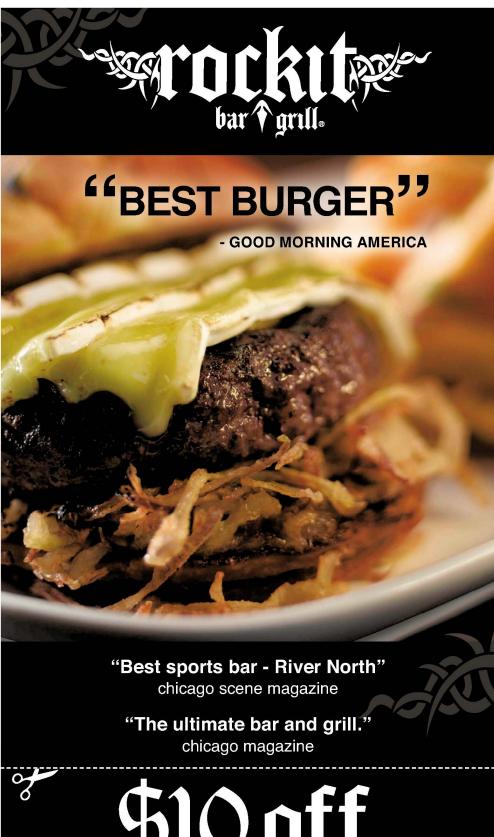
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metromix



Same name, similar menu, new

neighborhood. Chef-restaurateur

Debbie Sharpe has been serving



Batter, Bulletin

How do pancakes at 2 new spots, 2 new services stack up against Bongo Room's?

By Matt McGuire

People obsess over the craziest things. New Yorkers have their Magnolia Bakery cupcakes, Angelenos have their Pink's hot dogs and Chicagoans have their Bongo Room pancakes.

Suggest to a member of the Bongo Room Cult that the pancakes at Ina's, Orange or, gasp, the Original Pancake House are better and you'll have a fight on your hands. Butter knives will be drawn. Syrup will be spilled.

Heck, even The New York Times' roving gourmand R.W. Apple was a believer. In an e-mail to a colleague the night before he died in October 2006, Apple recommended Bongo Room as a spot that serves a great example of American pancakes.

Where does that leave a new pancake looking to make a name for itself? It'll be an uphill battle, to be sure, but we checked out four new breakfasts—two new spots and two new services—to gauge their potential.

Hearty Boys Catering/HBTV

3819 N. Broadway. 773-244-9866

Dan Smith and Steve McDonagh, the leaders of the Hearty Boys empire, have opened their studio and catering facility from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. for Sunday brunch.

Contender: The restaurant changes its pancake option seasonally. The pumpkin pancake (\$8.50), served with sweet cream and lingonberries, is on the menu for roughly the next month.

A threat? Don't get too comfortable, Bongo Room. The Hearty Boys do a classier pancake—it's not smothered in any sort of sweet sauce a la Bongo Room—which tends to attract a loyal following, though not a massive, cultish one.

FYI: Of the four new spots we tried, this was our fave. Great service, excellent food, good coffee and no wait... yet.

Ajasteak

660 N. State St. 312-202-6050

This pricey/trendy restaurant inside the year-old Dana Hotel launched its "Sunday School" brunch mid-February. (The theme was lost on us.) While the restaurant has been open for almost a year, the new brunch service is still working out some serious kinks.

Contender: The menu category XXXL Pancakes couldn't be more accurate. One order includes two 16-inch pancakes, which is more than enough for three or four people. Choices include organic buttermilk (\$10), lemon-poppy seed (\$12), spiced apple (\$12) and milk chocolate with caramelized bananas (\$14).

A threat? Only if size matters. While Bongo Room's pancakes have partially developed a cult following for sometimes going to extremes, Ajasteak takes that idea too far. Your waiter is doing you a disservice if he lets you and your guest each place an order (as ours did).

FYI: The restaurant folded up our sizeable leftovers and packed them in a cardboard pizza box, which quickly got soggy.



Feast

25 E. Delaware Pl. 312-337-4001

up brunch to Bucktown's bedheaded and baby-toting masses for more than a decade (she's done a pretty good dinner business too), and she just expanded to the Gold Coast. **Contender:** Only the oatmeal pancakes (\$9.50) have a permanent place on the menu, though the daily special frequently includes other options. They're served with cinnamonapple compote, honey-vanilla butter and garnished with a wedge of walnut brittle.

A threat? Close. Who knew oatmeal pancakes could be so light and fluffy? Our only quibble was that we ran out of the delicious cinnamon-apple compote before we ran out of pancakes.

FYI: Early risers, you have a new breakfast spot. The Gold Coast Feast opens at 7:30 a.m. daily.

Bananas Foster

1147 W. Granville Ave. 773-262-9855

On those days when you prefer sustenance over a scene, consider this month-old Edgewater spot, which serves up better-thanaverage diner food throughout the day.

Contender: The restaurant's signature Bananas Foster Pancakes—really just banana pancakes served with butter and maple syrup—get their name from the restaurant, not from the classic flaming dessert. An order of three smallish pancakes will run you only \$3, so consider adding an order of scrambled eggs, toast and bacon (\$4).

A threat? No, but perfectly decent and perfectly priced. If the pancakes stayed true to their name, however, and were some sort of banana flambe, they'd be a classic in the making.

FYI: Looking for a spot to prep for your St. Patrick's Day binge? Bananas Foster serves up a full Irish breakfast (\$12) on weekdays.

MATT MCGUIRE IS THE METROMIX EDITOR. MMCGUIRE@TRIBUNE.COM

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best bets

BY JULIA BORCHERTS metromix @tribune.com

THURSDAY

'The Big Lebowski' Fest

Brownstone Tavern & Grill, 3937 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-528-3700.

Salute newage slacker The Dude (Jeff Bridges) during a screening of the Coen brothers' classic comedy. Includes free popcorn and Wii bowling, \$5 Stoli Caucasians, \$3 Bud Light and Budweiser bottles, and a \$6 steak sandwich with "magic mushrooms" and fries. 8:30 p.m. Cost: No cover

Rock, Paper, Scissors contest

Victory Liquors, 2610 N. Halsted St. 773-348-5600.

After its debut in mid-January, this series of contests nodding to the new Illinois Lottery game draws to a close. Enter a free drawing for a chance to compete in elimination rounds of the hand-powered game for \$500 cash. Fuel up with complimentary appetizers, \$4 Miller Lite pitchers, \$4 select martinis and

giveaways for everyone. 8 p.m. Sherman and Tingle from WKQX (101.9-FM) host. **Cost:** No cover

Gingarte Capoeira Annual Women's Event

Shoreland Hall, University of Chicago, 5454 S. South Shore Drive. Female capoeira instructors (*capoeiristas*) from Brazil and across the U.S. lead workshops for men and women all weekend focusing on the Afro-Brazilian martial art and Brazilian music and Latin dance. Note: The location changes on Sunday; see **metro mix.com** for complete details. 6 p.m. **Cost:** \$28; \$60 three-day pass. 773-443-3220.

Govind Armstrong Cooking Demonstration

Macy's, 111 N. State St. 312-781-4884.

"Top Chef" guest judge and chef-owner at fine-dining restaurant Table 8 (sunny locations in L.A. and Miami) demonstrates how to make signature dishes such as long-cooked greens, South Carolina grits, smoked ham hock and more in honor of Black History Month. Noon. **Cost:** Free

Polar Bear Party

Kirkwood Bar & Grill, 2934 N. Sheffield Ave. 773-770-0700.

If you think the best defense is a good offense, face winter head-on: The bar's beer garden offers two hot tubs for soaking. Sip \$2 Corona and Corona Light bottles while chatting with Fluffy the polar bear, who provides on-site entertainment (not that it's needed). Also, enter a raffle for a trip for two to Mexico. 11 a.m.

Cost: No cover

500 Clown Madame Barker's Cabaret

Prop Thtr, 3504 N. Elston Ave.

Nine-year-old theater group 500 Clown salutes old-timey shtick with a cabaret hosted by the group's own Molly Brennan, who portrays Madame Barker in the upcoming production of "500 Clown and the Elephant Deal," opening in June at Steppenwolf Theatre. The night includes magic acts, burlesque, clowning, dance and original music from 500 Clown and guests. 10 p.m. **Cost:** \$5.773-383-9429.

HOW TO REACH US | FOR ENTERTAINMENT INFORMATION 24/7, GO TO METROMIX.COM.

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To submit event information for Metromix or **metromix.com**, go to **metromix.com/listings**.

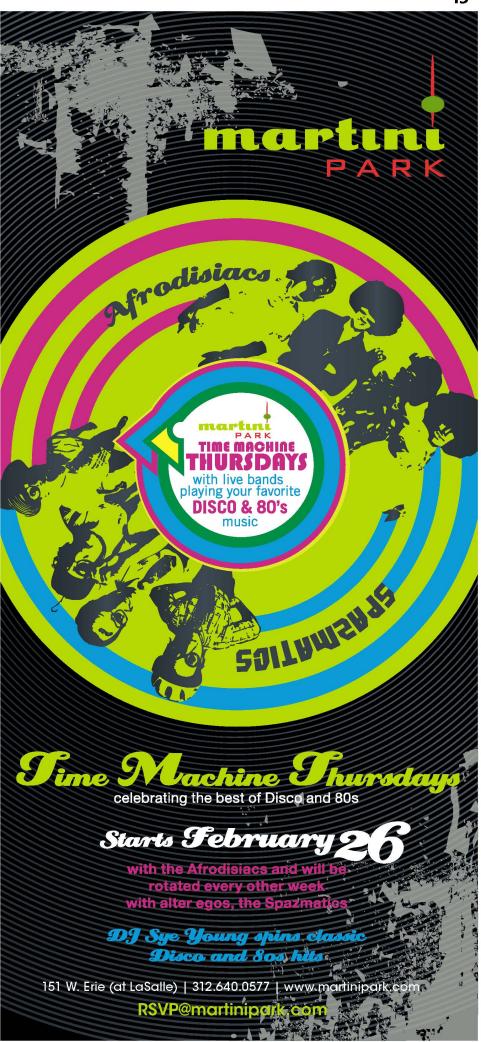


19 FEBRUARY 26, 2009 ▮ REDEYE



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Not that you need an excuse

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on a Saturday,

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guide at metromix.com

Journal wine columnists

John Brecher for just that

Fun factory

By Emily Hiser Lobdell

Their eats: When we go looking for fun, urban strip malls aren't usually tops on our list. The mall on Irving Park Road that houses Sanook—which literally means "fun" in Thai—might be an exception.

byob buzz

Sanook

2845 W. Irving Park Rd. 773-463-7299

Sanook isn't your typical strip mall Thai joint. The serene, blue-hued space is a soothing departure from the brightly lit parking lot, and though the dining room is spacious, partitions topped with tea lights help create a comfortable vibe. To up the fun factor, movies often are projected on one wall and funky beats play on the sound system.

The Japanese-Thai menu mixes sushi and Thai dishes, with both getting roughly equal play. If you're here for the sushi, General Manager Tobie Traisub, son of owner Vorachai Traisub, recommends the signature Big Ben maki (\$15), a huge roll (softshell crab, tempura shrimp, unagi and more) named after Tobie's brother Benjamin, the sushi chef.

The current sushi menu includes a range of maki and nigiri, but it's not yet complete - Sanook just opened in November. Three to five new specialty rolls will join the lineup monthly for each of the next six months; the most popular will remain. There's also an \$18 all-you-can-eat sushi buffet 4-9 p.m. Sunday-Tuesday. If you're leaning Thai, ask about the new seven-course tasting menu, a sampling of Thai favorites for \$18

Your drinks: Tobie Traisub learned a lot about pairing wine and Thai food during a previous gig as a server at Arun's (4156 N. Kedzie Ave.), so he happily dispenses BYOB suggestions. Of course, a sweet riesling or

TrinityBarChicago.com



full-bodied chardonnay always are good choices for spicy Thai seafood or chicken dishes. For the latter, pop in at Quick Shop (2901 W. Irving Park 773-267-7169) and pick up a bottle of organic Sterling Vineyards chardonnay (\$13.99).

Quick Shop also sells Rosenblum Cellars Chateau La Paws Cote du Bone Roan (\$12.99), a red blend with notes of cherries, spice and smoke that's a versatile pick if you're thinking about going with one of Sanook's beef dishes.

Sanook charges a \$5 corkage fee; it's waived for first-time customers.

EMILY HISER LOBDELL IS A METROMIX SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR. METROMIX@TRIBUNE.COM





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BLACK ROCK

Ladies Night. Halfprice appetizers, \$2.50 Bud bottles, \$4 Jager bombs; 3614 N. Damen Ave. 773-348-4044.

CAT'S MEOW

25 cent wings, \$2 cheese quesadillas, \$2 PBR drafts, \$3 Jameson shots; 2700 W. Chicago Ave. 773-489-6998.

CHIEF O'NEILL'S PUB

6 p.m.: "Mop Top Festival" launch party. See sneak peek scenes from Factory Theater's forthcoming production of "Mop Top Festival." Also features Beatles trivia contests, a raffle and Beatles music by DJ Chas. Fifty percent of your food and drink tab benefits the production. No cover: 3471 N. Elston Ave. 866-811-4111.

THE DARK HORSE TAP AND GRILLE

\$1 High Life bottles, \$1 PBR and Old Style cans, half-price bottles of wine; 3443 N. Sheffield Ave. 773-248-4400.

EVIL OLIVE

6 p.m.: Atomic Sketch Event. Eight established and emerging invited artists create mixed media works, paintings, drawings and more on site. When they're done, browsers can buy the works at affordable prices ranging from \$1-\$50. Artists can BYO sketch and paint materials and create their own pieces to display and sell. DJ Greg Haus spins electro and alternative. No cover; 1551 W. Division St. 773-235-9100.

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Crimson Lounge

CRIMSON LOUNGE

6 p.m.: Maven's Diva Series. The

fifth installment of the cocktail

salutes the women behind the

house wine and draft beer, plus

sarah@maven-chicago.com;

JUICY WINE COMPANY

half-price food. No cover. R.S.V.P.:

333 N. Dearborn St. Hotel Sax. 312-

7 p.m.: Wine Tasting with Alpana

series honoring influential women

lifestyle blog, Poor Little Rich Girls.

Includes \$3 glasses of champagne,

\$2-\$3 burgers, \$3 Stoli cocktails, \$3.50 black and tan pints; 3724 N. Clark St. 773-248-3330.

HAMBURGER MARY'S

\$4 Goose Island pints, \$5 raspberry vodkapink lemonade pints; 5400 N. Clark St. 773-784-6969.

NEO

10 p.m.: Depeche Mode vs. New Order. Dance and root for your favorite as DJs Qbot and Kamar go head to head in a new wave battle. Drink specials include \$2 PBR drafts. \$5; 2350 N. Clark St. 773-528-2622.

ORSO'S

Metromix's top picks

6 p.m.: Singles Wine Tasting. Meet your match over vino, appetizers and pizza. \$15. Reservations recommended; 1401 N. Wells St. 312-787-6604.

UNCLE FATTY'S RUM RESORT

Flippy cup contest 9 p.m., \$2 Bud Light cans, \$4 SoCo Lime shots, \$5 Bacardi cocktails. No cover; 2833 N. Sheffield Ave. 773-477-3661.

Singh. Sample some of the master sommelier's favorite bottles as she discusses her selections. Includes

small bites such as cheese and meats, plus live jazz music and a raffle. \$50-\$60. Tickets: **ekya.org**; 694 N. Milwaukee Ave. 847-204-3440.

ROCKIT BAR & GRILL

11 a.m. Chilifest: Celebrate National Chili Day with a menu featuring four variations on the classic dish. Prices vary; 22 W. Hubbard St. 312-645-6000.

nded; 1401 N. Illinois St. 312-644-12-787-6604. 7600.

VICTORY LIQUORS 8 p.m. Rock, Paper, Scissors contest. Throw your hand in the ring for your last chance to win \$500 cash. No cover; 2610 N. Halsted St. 773-348-5600.

THE UNDERGROUND

9 p.m.: Charity: Water

fundraiser. Dress in

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Metromix's top shows

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THE LITTLE ONES

Indie band might seem too cute if they weren't so catchy. Brett Dennen headlines. 7:30 p.m. \$18. Park West, 322 W. Armitage Ave. 312-559-1212.



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9 p.m. \$7. Martyrs', 3855 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-404-9869.

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8:30 p.m. \$5. Elbo Room, 2871 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-549-5549.

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9 p.m. \$8. Beat Kitchen, 2100 W. Belmont Ave. **housecallent.com**

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6 p.m. \$8-\$10. House of Blues, 329 N. Dearborn St. 312-923-2000.

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10 p.m. \$10-\$12. House of Blues Back Porch Stage, 329 N. Dearborn St. 312-923-2000.



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Yet my highly educated dad struggled financially all his life and the other dad would become one of the richest men I had ever known.

One died leaving tens of millions of dollars to his family, charities, and his church. The other left a legacy of unpaid bills. Both men were strong, charismatic, and influential.

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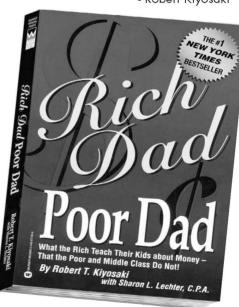
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- Robert Kiyosaki



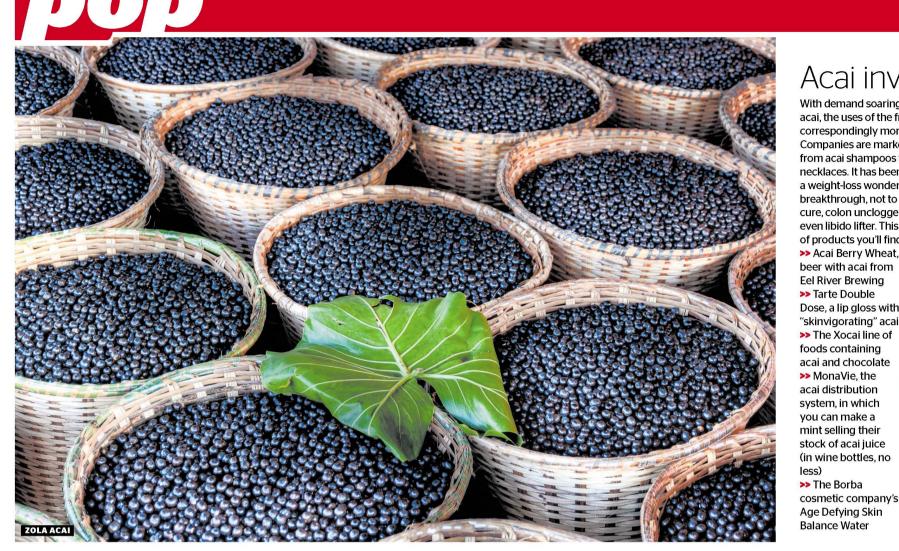
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Acai invasion

With demand soaring for everything acai, the uses of the fruit have gotten correspondingly more creative. Companies are marketing everything from acai shampoos to acai-seed necklaces. It has been hailed as both a weight-loss wonder and anti-aging breakthrough, not to mention cancer cure, colon unclogger, skin firmer and even libido lifter. This is just a small list of products you'll find. cns

>> Acai Berry Wheat, an antioxidant

beer with acai from **Eel River Brewing** >> Tarte Double Dose, a lip gloss with "skinvigorating" acai >> The Xocai line of foods containing acai and chocolate >> MonaVie, the acai distribution system, in which vou can make a mint selling their stock of acai juice (in wine bottles, no less) >> The Borba



Columbia News Service

The pomegranate and goji berry are so yes-

The latest and perhaps most far-reaching fruit fad to hit the American market is acai. A small purplish berry, acai (pronounced "ahsah-EE,") is native to Brazil and tastes like an earthier version of a blackberry. It is most commonly consumed as juice or in a smoothie, but that's only the beginning. Acai-based products can be found at corner stores, highend grocers and at both GNC and Sephora.

Today's acai market is worth \$15 million, up from under \$500,000 in 2004, according to the Better Business Bureau.

The hype stems from aggressive marketing and the berry's main claim to fame: It has a high concentration of antioxidants, substances found in food that help prevent damage to a body's cells.

That fact has generated not only a host of new products, but also nearly as many claims as to the berry's supposed health benefits. In January, the Better Business Bureau stepped in and issued a warning to consumers about online scams involving acai.

The berry got a major boost in early 2008 when cosmetics magnate Dr. Nicholas

Too good to be true?

Wonder berry acai lures health-obsessed consumers—and crop of online scammers

Perricone named acai as his No. 1 superfood on Oprah Winfrey's Web site. Since then, a veritable rainforest of sites has cropped up, some of which "make wallets thin and consumers angry," according to the Better Business Bureau.

Its recent warning came in the wake of thousands of complaints from consumers who had been hooked by weight-loss plans featuring acai. Many of the plans offered supposedly no-risk trials but proved difficult or impossible to cancel.

The scams have left legitimate acai companies with the task of defending their berry.

Kaia Lai, communications manager for Sambazon, the country's largest retailer of acai, said her company does not attribute any fat-burning ability to acai, and that the true value of the fruit should not be diminished by online hucksters.

"We stand behind its nutrients," Lai added. "It is high in anthocyanins," a class of antioxidants, "and it also has fiber, protein and omega fatty acids. What we do suggest is that if you want a nutrient-rich food as part of your diet, acai is a good choice."

Methods used to measure a food's antioxidant capacity can produce misleading results, says Jonny Bowden, a nutrition expert and author of "The 150 Healthiest Foods on Earth." Even if acai is highest in antioxidants, or at least a certain type of antioxidant, that is a fact that Bowden said can get overplayed.

"I don't know if the incremental difference of more anthocyanins in one berry, and more vitamin A in another and more folic acid in a third—I don't really know if it is ultimately going to make that much of a difference," he explained. "I have no objection to acai, but there is no one magical thing in the absence of a wholly healthy lifestyle that is ultimately going to make that much of a difference, even though marketing says otherwise."

Many consumers are saying otherwise as well. Cassie Chen, a junior at Brigham Young University Hawaii and founder of the "Addicted to ACAI" Facebook group, can't say enough about acai.

"Acai really makes me feel refreshed and honestly, I'm energized after I eat it," she said. "I don't feel tired and it helps me focus more."

poptravel redeye i thursday

Calculate cost of hitting road

Los Angeles Times

Planning a summer road trip? **Costtodrive.com** calculates the cost of gasoline in seconds:

What's hot: Punch in your starting point and destination, add the year, make and model of the car you're driving, then click the little red gas pump and find out how much it will cost you to get there. Besides telling you how much your gasoline will cost, costtodrive.com also tells you how many miles you will travel and how long it will take to arrive. Travelers will appreciate the side-by-side information from Kayak that tells you how much it would cost to fly instead. Need directions? It has a Google map of your route, plus a link to directions from Mapquest and Yahoo and Google maps. Once you've used the calculator, don't be surprised if you start questioning what kind of car you drive. It costs only \$18.16 to drive from L.A. to San Francisco (one way) in a 2005 Toyota Prius, but the site says it's \$45.41 in a 2008 Ford Explorer.

What's not: The simplicity helps make the site successful. Even the few ads on the page are fairly unobtrusive compared with other Web sites. The one thing that would be welcome is a European version for travelers who rent cars while traveling abroad.



News for travelers

Get your passport

If you're heading for Canada or Mexico this summer and don't have a passport, apply now. U.S. rules taking effect June 1 will require that Americans crossing back over the U.S. border have a passport, passport card or enhanced driver's license (containing an identity chip). If you apply now, you may avoid a glut of requests later. Visit **travel.** state.gov. TRIBUNE

Find deals

Priceline.com suggests that leisure travelers look for hotel, restaurant and entertainment deals in cities that usually have heavy convention business. The economic wilt has left these venues looking for business, and that means leisure travelers too. Check out Anaheim, Atlanta, Dallas, Las Vegas, Miami, New Orleans, New York, Orlando, San Diego, San Francisco and Washington—even Chicago. TRIBUNE

Guide books

11:30 AM COLLEGE ENSEMBLES

THE BILL HOLMAN BAND

FOLLOWED BY A FEATURE

FOR THE FULL SCHEDULE & TICKETS VISIT WWW.ELMHURST.EDU/JAZZFESTIVAL

Lonely Planet is launching a new series of guidebooks in March called "Trips." The first six titles in the series are "California," "Pacific Northwest," "Arizona, New Mexico & the Grand Canyon," "New York, Washington DC & the Mid-Atlantic," "The Carolinas, Georgia & the South," and "New England." Each \$20 paperback offers 50 to 68 itineraries and more than 1,000 places to see, organized by themes like "Food & Drink," "Outdoors," "History & Culture," "Offbeat" and "City." AP

time, with rates starting at \$89, single or double, for one night's lodging and a two-day lift ticket. More at crystalmountain.com. TRIBUNE TRIPS New England RIPS New England RIPS 1,005 local plant New England RIPS 1,005 local plant New England RIPS 1,005 local plant 1,005 local plant



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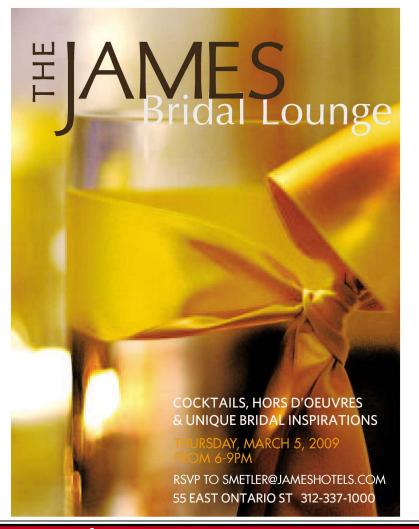
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Capture the moment and still save money

The Washington Post

Your wedding photos are just about the only thing-besides your marriage itself, hopefully—that lasts beyond your wedding day.

In this economic climate, dropping \$6,000

"Hire the best

photographer you

can find but forego

such until you have

the money to invest

down the road."

LESLEY COHEN

event planner

the prints, albums and

on a wedding photo album seems a bit extravagant. Worry not; you can document the bouquet throws and exchanged vows without breaking the bank.

While going the route of finding a less-expensive photographer with positive reviews on a site like Pictage is a no-brainer, you can cut costs without going with an

inexpensive (or inexperienced) professional. Event planner Lesley Cohen, who founded

LelyCo Events, thinks there are plenty of places to cut costs in weddings, but skimping on the photographer generally is a bad idea.

"My recommendation is to hire the best photographer you can find but forego the prints, albums and such until you have the money to invest down the road," said Cohen of Falls Church, Va.

>> A lot of photographers will offer expensive packages, but those options may include extraneous services. Boudoir photos? Probably something people can live without. In that case, try to negotiate a la carte or

hourly pricing.

>> Have a few friends with digital cameras that relish playing paparazzi? Ask them to go crazy on the wedding day. That way, you can employ a professional photographer at an hourly rate for the most important photographs and fill in the gaps with photos from friends and family. Think of it as a sort of wed-

ding photography crowdsourcing.

>> Hire a photojournalist. Photojournalists may not offer the add-ons of a typical wedding photographer, so the wedding album may become a do-it-yourself project.

>> Rather than seeking out a photographer on your own, try companies such as Bella Pictures (bellapictures.com). Bella has a database of photographers to choose from. It might be a slightly less personal experience, but the rates are good and most of the details are handled for you.

After the company gets a sense of what the bride and groom are looking for, Bella serves as a sort of eHarmony and about two

Walk down the aisle

with a

perfect smile.

chicago

like a good fit (bride and groom have veto power). The pricier packages run up to \$6,400, but the "Simplicity" (six hours, one photographer and digital negatives) costs \$1,950. >> For those willing to take a larger leap, many art or photography students might jump at the chance to earn a few bucks. Of course, hiring someone who is less experienced is not for the faint of heart, but amazing things can come from raw talent.

months before the wedding, the company

recommends a photographer that seems





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Blago Fever may finally be waning, but you can relive some of the former governor's wacky shenanigans with this iPhone game. You buy and sell political offices, liquor licenses and Teamsters in an attempt to make as much cash as possible before your impeachment. This game may not be bleeping golden-it feels a bit like a cashin—but that's just the way Blago would want IT. RYANSMITH FOR REDEYE



The Chris Isaak Hour

9 p.m. Thursday, Biography

If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, then Elvis Costello should thank Chris Isaak for his new interview show. Following the format of Sundance Channel's "Spectacle: Elvis Costello With ... ,' Isaak invites singers over for a relaxed chat and iam session. This week's quest is Trisha Yearwood, and coming up Isaak welcomes Smashing Pumpkins, Stevie Nicks and Michael Buble, among others.

CURT WAGNER, REDEYE



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\$14.81 at amazon.com

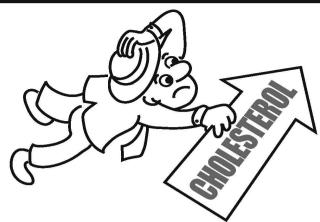
Kirigami AND home decorating tips in one? Awesome. I loved the book with all the patterns and ideas for using the finished products as decor. But you have to use tracing paper to get the pattern onto the colorful sheets included, which is kind of a pain. While they're fun to do, I don't know if I'll be hanging kirigami artwork on my walls.

SUPRIYA DOSHI, REDEYE





33 FEBRUARY 26, 2009 ▮ REDEYE



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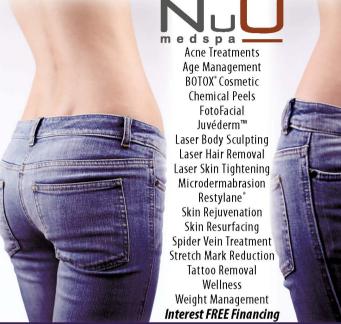


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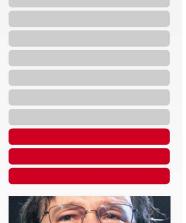




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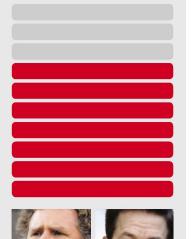
WALSH WALSH





Clue

First Candy Land, now this. "Pirates of the Caribbean" director Gore Verbinski (above) is working on an update of the '80s flick based on the board game, Variety reports. Early prediction: Col. Mustard. In the study. With the wrench.





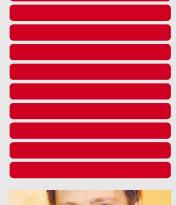
B Team

Will Ferrell (left) and Mark Wahlberg (right) are slated to costar in an action comedy in which they play cops, Variety says. Talk about an odd couple!



Dog Show

Ellen DeGeneres (above) is on board to voice a character in an animated feature about—you guessed it—a dog show. Finally, a follow-up to her turn as Dora in "Finding Nemo!"





Green Hornet

Nerd alert: Entertainment Weekly reports that trippy director Michel Gondry (above) is negotiating to direct Seth Rogen's comic book project "Green Hornet." Comedy god, meet your muse.





Hot Tub Time Machine

It doesn't matter what this project, reported by Variety, is about. John Cusack and Rob Corddry are in it. And it sounds deliciously bad. And it probably has a hot tub.



MOVIE BUZZ: HOT OR NOT?

Is it just us, or has there been a lot of interesting movie scoops trickling down from the trade publications this week?

From the announcement of odd adaptations (Do we really need another movie based on the board game Clue?) to talk of a new Will Ferrell project, the peeps at Variety, The Hollywood Reporter and Entertainment Weekly have once again piqued our interest in the inside world of movie making.

RedEye's here to sort through it all with our handy, dandy Buzz-O-Meter. It's our way of figuring out what's buzz worthy this week.

poppuzzies FEBRUARY 26, 2009 ▮ REDEYE





20 min.

Think you can beat John? E-mail redeyeeditor@tribune. com or text "John" and your e-mail address to 32332.

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WEDNESDAY'S SOLUTIONS

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- **ACROSS** Actress Veronica
 - TV network
- 9 Waldorf, e.g.14 Dumbfound
- Cool or groovy
- Verify Many-headed
- monster 18 Big fuss
- "Bolero" composer
- 20 Noblemen 22 Japanese flower
- arrangement 24 Glide on snow
- "Torn" singer
- Imbruglia 28 Fawkes or Lombardo
- Hoity-toityness
- 31 Handrail post
- Comprehends
- Became level 36 Follow afterward
- Blockade
- Salon Resistance units
- Thread reel Refinery residue
- Souchong, e.g.
- 53 Small bars 55 Church vow
- Breakfast pick
- 58 Former capital of Japan 60 Playful mammal
- 61 Galena, e.g. 63 Dapper
- 66 Wary
- 67 For each
- 68 Musician Shaw
- 69 Short-lived Ford model
- 70 Newspaper honchos
- 71 Blush wines

DOWN

- So there! Writer Tan
- Spanish wines
- Stone or Pound
- Gain wisdom
- Take to task

27 Reverent wonder 30 Ticket receipts 32 Mixes up

67

18

- Made unfit for use
- Auction offer Romp U.A.E. word
- Unusually tall seasoning plant 11

25

24

56

8 9

- Means of access
- 13 Postponements21 Kent's girlfriend
- Metric meas.
- 24 Vault 25 Potter's oven
- Golfer's peg 35 Dos Passos work 38 Denholm and Bob
- 39 Prod
- 40 Cogito _ sum 42 Gobi location
- 43 Farther along
- the ascent 44 Kiddy
- 45 Some cricket pitches 46 Gambit 47 "My Favorite Year" star
- 48 Warmed up
- 49 Dull finishes
- 53 Emerald's mineral 54 Detector device
- 57 Trifling Tropical root
- 62 Scarlet, e.g.
- 64 Connection 65 Certainly!

Alumni: Harold Pinter Judi Dench Laurence Olivier

AUDITIONS AND INTERVIEWS IN US







Cameron Mackintosh Julie Christie Zoë Wanamaker Gael Garcia Bernal **Graham Norton** Vanessa Redgrave James Fox Carrie Fisher

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

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When reunited No Doubt will bring their

tour to Chicago. They'll be playing at First

Midwest Bank Amphitheatre, billboard.com reported.

Inside Britney's circus

Sounds like Britney Spears' "Circus" tour will be a real pain-or at least looks that way. As part of the show kicking off Tuesday in New Orleans, she'll be incorporated into "major illusions"—including being sawed in half-tour insider and illusionist Ed Alonzo tells people.com. Ouch!

Twitter smackdown

In the latest Twitter celeb feud: comedian Michael Ian Black vs. LeVar "Reading Rainbow" Burton. Black was dismayed to find that "He With the Visor" has nearly 35,000 followers as opposed to Black's 6,000-plus, prompting him to declare war. Burton tweeted back: "It may be necessary to go Kunta on his ass!"

J-Hud homecoming

Jennifer Hudson is following up her Grammy appearance with one in her hometown later this week. The Chicago native is set to perform her new single "If This Isn't Love" on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" on Friday, according to a post on her Web site. Hudson also will briefly talk with Oprah, HARPO confirmed to accesshollywood.com.



L.C., out? Lauren Conrad wants to go out on top-and she's saying the upcoming Season 5 of MTV's "The Hills" will be her last. "I wanted to walk

away from it while it's still a great thing," she tells Seventeen magazine, according to people.com excerpts. A preview of the new season-which looks, like, super dramatichit the Internet this week.

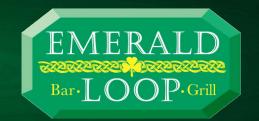
And your 'Top Chef' is ...

... (final spoiler alert warning, "Top Chef" fans) ... Hosea. The Colorado-based chef finally bested his nemesis Stefan in a battle of the baldies. And yes, he reveled in it. But the season will be remembered for the most heartbreaking moment in show history: Popular cheftestant Carla, who grew stronger as the season progressed, couldn't plate her final course, undone by second-guessing her instincts. We forgive you if you cried along with her.



HOT DATE

Drinks after work in the Loop!



Beer of the Month



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